

my family, although they will discount it hopefully somewhat. I also thank him for his leadership in this body and for the way he has fought for so many causes, not just for our veterans but our troops. Year after year, he is on this floor improving the situation for those who have been badly wounded, retired, and disabled. Without that effort, the progress we have made in the last few years simply could not have happened. I thank him.

I am glad Senator WEBB was able to get to the floor. I have already thanked him for his work on the Commission on which he and Senator MCCASKILL led an effort, a Commission on contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and there are so many other areas in which he is involved. I am delighted he was able to get to the floor for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I do not want to take up too much time on the floor. All the salient points have been made, and I know the Senate is anxious to vote.

First of all, I echo the comments about the majority leader. He has to stand up and take a lot of hits on behalf of all of us. I know of no one who is more highly and sincerely motivated.

It has been a pleasure to work with the chairman, Senator WARNER, and Senator MCCAIN on the Armed Services Committee. I am also on the Veterans' Committee. We were able to work with both committees on the Wounded Warrior project.

I would like, very briefly, to give a special thanks to Senator WARNER, my senior Senator from Virginia, for having stepped forward on this wartime contracts commission and brought it to fruition after Senator MCCASKILL and I had spent a lot of time working on it and were in a situation where we didn't know if it actually was going to get into the bill. It was Senator WARNER stepping forward and ironing out a few of these provisions and leading the Republican side that made that possible.

Obviously, I am very strongly in support of the bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) would vote "yea."

Mr. LOTT. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 433 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Akaka	Dorgan	McConnell
Alexander	Durbin	Menendez
Allard	Ensign	Mikulski
Barrasso	Enzi	Murkowski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murray
Bayh	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Gregg	Pryor
Bond	Hagel	Reed
Brown	Harkin	Reid
Brownback	Hatch	Roberts
Bunning	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Burr	Inhofe	Salazar
Cantwell	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Sessions
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	Kerry	Smith
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Snowe
Coburn	Kohl	Specter
Cochran	Kyl	Stabenow
Coleman	Landrieu	Stevens
Collins	Lautenberg	Sununu
Conrad	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Levin	Thune
Cornyn	Lieberman	Vitter
Craig	Lincoln	Voinovich
Crapo	Lott	Warner
DeMint	Lugar	Webb
Dole	Martinez	Whitehouse
Domenici	McCaskill	Wyden

NAYS—3

Byrd	Feingold	Sanders
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NOT VOTING—7

Biden	Dodd	Obama
Boxer	Inouye	
Clinton	McCain	

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 1585

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 269, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 269) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1585.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the concurrent resolution is agreed to and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 269) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COLEMAN. Reserving the right to object, I ask I be permitted to follow for 10 minutes, also as in morning business.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—it is Friday afternoon. As chairman of the Agriculture Committee, I am seeking to get the agriculture bill done, and Members want to get finished and go home. We only have 1 amendment left on the farm bill, which can be disposed of. We can, I hope, shortly go to final passage on that. If we don't get to the farm bill we could be here for a long time. I say to my friends who are here, we do want to wrap up this farm bill.

Mr. STEVENS. I am happy to withdraw my request. I thought it would be a quorum call.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am prepared to withdraw my request if we are prepared to vote on the farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request as made?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

FAIR TREATMENT FOR EXPERIENCED PILOTS ACT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to thank Congress for finally raising the mandatory retirement age for commercial airline pilots from age 60 to age 65. This language was included as part of the "Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act," and allows our most experienced commercial pilots to continue providing safe air transportation for the Nation. The House approved the bill unanimously.

Since 1960, the FAA "Age 60 Rule" has restricted pilots age 60 and older from serving on any commercial flight operations. Under the rule, it is estimated that our aviation system lost 50 pilots every week.

Many in the aviation community, the FAA, and now Congress, have reacted to the realization that the Age 60 Rule has become outdated and discriminatory against one of Alaska's greatest resources, its experienced and seasoned pilots.

As my colleagues in the Senate know, the State of Alaska depends on aviation more than any other State. In our State we find that 50 percent of the commercial pilots are over 55.

The lack of highway infrastructure creates a situation where aviation serves as the traditional road system. More than 70 percent of our communities can only be reached year around by air, making aircraft essential for personal, commercial, cargo, and mail transportation to most parts of our State. Having experienced pilots to deliver goods and services to our communities is essential for Alaskans.

Many of our pilots contacted me and told me how the Age 60 Rule was impacting them.